Killing of Mongoose inTamil Nadu

2410. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that field Mongoose are killed inTamil Nadu, as its hair are used to make painting brushes; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government and the State Government to put an end to the brutal killing of these Mongooses?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no incidence of mongoose being killed for its hair for making painting brushes in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Does not arise. However, considering the important role mongoose has in an ecosystem, recently legal status for protection of mongoose has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Part II of Schedule II of The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Environmental Clearance for Ong Dam

2411. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ong Dam Irrigation Project, which envisages construction of dam across river Ong, in Orissa, has been received by Government for environmental site clearance;

(b) whether this project has already been cleared by the 74th TAC, of Ministry of Water Resources on 29th September, 2000, at an estimated cost of Rs. 304.60 crores; and

(c) if so, the present status of the case?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was found acceptable by TAC subject to the project proponent obtaining necessary approvals from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the State Finance Department.

(c) Site clearance from environmental angle has been given on 20th November, 2002.

Formation of Eco-Battalion

2412. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:

Will the Ministerof ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has proposed to the Centre for formation of an eco-battalion; if so, the details of the proposal;

(b) whether such eco-taskforce has already been set up in other States; if so, the names of the States and the kind of projects entrusted to this taskforce; and

(c) whether expenditure on such projects is shared by the Centre with the States; if so, the proportion thereof?

THE MINISTER* OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Govt, of Orissa has identified plantation works over 729.31 hectares of degraded forest land in Jagannath Prasad Demarcated Protected Forest under Chandaka Wild Life Division, Bhubaneshwar by engaging the proposed Eco-Taskforce.

(b) and (c) Eco-taskforces are at present operating in the States of Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir to undertake restoration of degraded ecosystems through afforestation. The entire expenditure on these forces is met by the Central Government.

Hunting of Siberian Crane in Azamgarh

†2413. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Siberian Cranes, the guest migratory birds are being hunted illegally, in connivance with officials/employees of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.